



25<sup>th</sup> April 2021- Easter 4 Yr B

***Welcome:***

***Greeting:***

As we celebrate the risen Christ,  
May the Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

***Moment of Stillness:***

Let's take a moment to be still and aware of the God's presence within and all around us.

***Christ Candle:***

We light this light to remind us that Christ is here with us.  
**Christ is always with us.**

***Acknowledgement First Peoples:***

We acknowledge the sovereign First Peoples of this country on which we gather today; the Gadigal and Wangal people. And we pay our respects to their Elders past and present, together with all descendants.

**We commit ourselves to support Voice, Treaty, Truth – justice for First Nations Peoples.**

***Call to Worship: (based on Psalm 23)***

You, Oh God are our shepherd and we lack nothing.  
You make us lie down in green pastures,  
**You lead us beside quiet waters,  
You refresh our soul.**

You guide us along the right paths  
for your name's sake.  
Even though we walk through the darkest valley,  
we will fear no evil,  
**for you are with us;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort us.**

You prepare a table before us  
in the presence of our enemies.  
**You anoint our heads with oil;  
our cup overflows.**

Surely your goodness and love will follow us  
all the days of our life,  
**and we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

***Opening Prayer:***

Risen Jesus, thank You for being our Shepherd,  
the One who clearly leads our lives.  
Stand on the hillsides where we can clearly see You.  
Don't let us miss You.  
As your sheep, we will look to You,  
listen to Your voice, and follow Your leading.  
We trust You to be the good Shepherd, the wise Shepherd,  
the loving Shepherd, and the strong Shepherd in our lives.  
**Amen**

**Song: Let the flame burn brighter**

1. We'll walk the land with hearts on fire;  
and ev'ry step will be a prayer.  
Hope is rising new day dawning.  
Sound of singing fills the air.

Chorus: Let the flame burn brighter  
in the heart of the darkness,  
turning night to glorious day.  
Let the song grow louder,  
as our love grows stronger.  
Let it shine, let it shine.

2. Two thousand years, and still the flame  
is burning bright across the land.  
Hearts are waiting, longing, aching,  
for awakening once again.
3. We'll walk for truth, speak out for love,  
in Jesus name we shall be strong,  
to lift the fallen, to save the children,  
to fill the nation with Your song.

**Song: Heal our nation**

1. Lord, we long for You to move in power,  
There's a hunger deep within our hearts.  
To see healing in our nation,  
Send Your Spirit to revive us.

Chorus:

Heal our nation,  
Heal our nation,  
Heal our nation,  
Pour out Your Spirit on this land.

2. Lord we hear Your Spirit coming closer,  
a mighty wave to break upon our land,  
bringing justice and forgiveness.  
God we cry to You to revive us!

## **Prayer of Confession:**

We come to God  
knowing that we have failed to obey the call of Jesus  
to love God and one another with our whole hearts;  
but we come also to a God who reaches out to us  
with healing and reconciliation.

In this knowledge, let us pray

Forgive us, O God,  
for the times when we fail to reach out and accompany  
those who are going through difficult times;  
those who feel imprisoned in a valley of shadows  
and find themselves overwhelmed by life.

**Jesus, Good Shepherd,  
help us to take the time and make the space  
to hear your call to us.**

The call to reveal your love, compassion and comfort  
wherever you need us to, in our world today.

**Jesus, Good Shepherd,  
help us to take the time and make the space  
to hear your call to us.**

The call to reveal in tangible and authentic ways,  
your passion for those who feel powerless and to effect real change.

**Jesus, Good Shepherd,  
help us to take the time and make the space  
to hear your call to us.**

The call to empty ourselves of all that is contrary to your life within us  
so that your goodness is enjoyed and shared by all.

In your name, we pray.

**Amen**

## ***Words of Assurance:***

Jesus the Good Shepherd calls each of his sheep by name  
and we hear his voice

Hear then the words of Jesus to us:

'Your sins are forgiven'.

**Thanks be to God**

***Peace:***

May the peace of the Risen Christ be with you

**And also with you.**

**Song: The Lord's my Shepherd**

1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.  
He makes me down to lie  
in pastures green, he leadeth me  
the quiet waters by.

2 My soul he doth restore again;  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
ev'n for his own name's sake.

3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
yet will I fear none ill:  
for thou art with me; and thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.

4 My table thou hast furnishèd  
in presence of my foes;  
my head thou dost with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.

5 Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me;:  
and in God's house for evermore  
my dwelling-place shall be.

***Moment for the young at heart:***

***Bible Readings:***

### **1 John 3:16-24**

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister<sup>[a]</sup> in need and yet refuses help?

<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us

### **John 10:11-18**

<sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes<sup>[a]</sup> it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

In this is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Reflection:** Brian

**Moment of Stillness:**

## ***Prayers of the People:***

### ***The Lord's Prayer:***

**Our Father in heaven  
hallowed be your name.  
your kingdom come  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread  
forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us in the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours.  
Now and forever.  
Amen**

***'Freddo' Moment:*** The congregation share good news

### ***Community News:***

### ***Offering Prayer:***

God of great gifts:  
With resurrection humming in our hearts,  
our minds are tuned to your song of peace.  
We joyfully give these gifts to you,  
a tangible chorus of thanksgiving,  
a harmony of hope for your kingdom come.  
***Amen.***

***Song:*** O God of every nation

1. O God of ev'ry nation,  
Of ev'ry race and land.  
Redeem the whole creation  
With your almighty hand;  
Where hate and fear divide us  
And bitter threats are hurled,

In love and mercy guide us  
And heal our strife-torn world.

2. From search for wealth and power  
And scorn of truth and right,  
From trust in bombs that shower,  
Destruction through the night  
From pride of race and station  
And blindness to Your way.  
Deliver ev'ry nation,  
Eternal God, we pray.

3. Lord, strengthen those who labour  
That all may find release  
From fear of rattling sabre,  
From dread of war's increase;  
When hope and courage falter,  
Your still small voice be heard;  
With faith that none can alter,  
your servants undergird.

4. Keep bright in us the vision  
Of days when war shall cease,  
When hatred and division  
Give way to love and peace,  
Til dawns the morning glorious  
When peace on earth shall reign  
And Christ shall rule victorious  
O'er all the world's domain.

***Benediction & Blessing:***

Know that wherever you go,  
Jesus the Good Shepherd will lead you  
to streams of life-giving water,  
and will wipe all tears  
from your eyes.

And the blessing of God Almighty:

Lover, Beloved and Spirit of Love  
be upon you and remain with you always.

### **3-fold-Amen**

*Acknowledgements:*

*Image: Good Shepherd of Sieger Koger - by Sarah Hornsby*

*Opening prayer — [melanieredd.com](http://melanieredd.com)*

*Prayer of confession – adapted from —Maira Laidlaw, [Liturgies Online](#)*